(b) if so, the details of such stations declared and converted into Model Railway Stations so far, State-wise;

(c) whether any such station has been converted in Gujarat State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which any of the station declared in the State is proposed to be converted into a model railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) In the year 1986, a scheme was introduced to develop some railway stations as model stations. Under the scheme, 67 stations were selected. Works at 3 stations were dropped due to gauge conversion and only 64 stations were developed as such on the Indian Railways.

This scheme has since been discontinued

Railways do not maintain the information State-wise.

Railway Projects in Vidarbha Region

4155. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of new projects were announced as package for the people of Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra during 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the development projects being launched in Vidarbha region and actual provision of funds made therefor during the current year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. No such package was announced.

(b) Does not arise.

Rakes for Coal Movement

4156. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal based industries in the country especially Thermal Power Stations are experiencing great difficulty for want of adequate allotment of rakes for the coal movement from the pit-heads;

(b) whether there has been an unmanageable backlog at pit-heads due to non-availability/non-allotment of rakes for the coal movement; and

(c) if so, the additional steps being taken by the Railway authorities to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Travelling Zoos

4157. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of travelling zoos in the country;

(b) whether these travelling zoos have been found congenial for the conservation of wild life;

(c) whether these travelling zoos are legal and have the requisite permission from the Central Zoo Authority; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The total number of travelling zoos in the country as per the record held in the Central Zoo Authority is 23.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The 23 travelling zoos which had applied for recognition to the Central Zoo Authority, 19 zoos have been evaluated by he Central Zoo Authority. Out of these, 17 zoos have been refused recognition and have been directed to deposit scheduled animals being held by them to recognized zoos. 1 zoo has been asked to show cause as to why its recognition should not be refused. 1 zoo has been evaluated recently and is also being issued a show cause notice. The remaining 4 zoos have already stopped operation.

Konkan Railway Project

4158. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has approached some foreign banks for the funds needed for completion of Konkan Railway, and

(b) if so, the details and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Konkan Railway Corporation has obtained Ministry of Finance sanction for raising a loan of 30 million US $ through external commercial borrowings. The same is being syndicated by the Bank of America.

(b) The syndication is under process and is yet to be finalized.

Electrification of Broad Gauge Line

4159. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :